

years. I first went on board of a sailing vessel on Lake Erie as a cabin boy and continued in that capacity and that of a sailor for nine years. I then became commander of a sailing vessel and continued as such for five years ; during all of this period was on a sailing vessel running between Buffalo and Chicago, and intermediate ports ; about five years since I ceased to command a vessel ; since that period I have been and am now engaged in Marine Insurance on the lakes, as the agent of various Insurance companies ; I have never known in my experience and observations as a seaman, the Niagara river to have been used as a harbor of refuge in stress of weather. I have never found any difficulty in getting into Buffalo harbor in all kinds of weather ; I have never known a vessel in severe weather to run into the river for shelter ; I understand the reasons to be, that the navigation is dangerous and obstructed with reefs and rocks, and it is not safe to venture down in fair weather without a pilot, unless the captain is himself a pilot ; I do not think that there is one captain in *three hundred* who would dare to venture down the river in bad weather. If a bridge was built across the river at any point between Horse Shoe reef and the lower end of Squaw Island, with a draw one hundred and eighty or two hundred feet wide over the main channel with suitable lights at each end of the draw, it would not in my opinion at all impede the navigation of the river, nor endanger the safety of vessels in any storms or weather that I have experienced ; with this draw and suitable lights, I should consider it more safe to run down the river in the night, whether in a storm or fair weather, than to run down in the condition the river is now in ; it is not possible for a sailing vessel to run up the river without the aid of steam, unless with a fair wind blowing half a gale.

WM. MOORE.

Subscribed and sworn before me }  
this 4th day of April, 1857, }

F. P. STEVENS, *Mayor of Buffalo.*

Henry P. Smith being sworn deposes and says—that in 1854, in the latter part of the month of April, there was a large fleet of vessels bound down from the upper lakes. Arrived to within four or five miles of Buffalo they approached a large mass of ice, which completely blocked up the passage to Buffalo harbor, and the only space clear of ice was along the canal shore. Some fifteen or twenty of said vessels ventured down into the ice near the entrance to the mouth of the Niagara river. At about the time they arrived at this point the wind shifted to the south, and drove the